

February 5, 2007

Via E-Mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

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Ms. Tam M. Doduc
Chair
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



**Re: Mojave Water Agency's comments for the 2/20/07 BOARD MEETING
Agenda Item #6; Consideration of approval of additional Integrated Regional Water
Management (IRWM) implementation grants**

Dear Chair Doduc:

My name is Joseph W. Brady, CCIM, SIOR, President of The Bradco Companies, the leading provider of commercial, industrial and land brokerage services for the entire portion of North San Bernardino County. We publish The Bradco High Desert Report, the only quarterly economic overview of the High Desert Region.

I want to applaud the recommendation made by staff from the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board that funding be provided to all 16 applicants in the Proposition 50 Step 2 process, instead of only the original seven that were chosen. The courage and willingness to re-evaluate the selection criteria demonstrates how effective stakeholder involvement can be, and their flexibility is appreciated.

In light of the recommendation provided at the January 23 & 31, 2007 Grant Program Scoping meetings, I'd like to lend my strong support and endorsement of the application submitted by Mojave Water Agency (MWA) in Southern California and urge you and your colleagues to please concur with your staff's and DWR's recommendation.

The four projects included in MWA's application have withstood *intense* public scrutiny by stakeholders in our region, and the stakeholders have galvanized their unwavering support. The projects will address water supply reliability, regional conservation, groundwater recharge management and habitat protection in the High Desert region of San Bernardino County for years to come.

These projects weren't selected because they would be "nice to do." They were chosen because they are vital to help protect and enhance the economic viability and quality of life in one of the fastest growing regions in the State of California. The projects are essential elements of a project portfolio that will enable MWA to provide a balanced long-term supply of water, expand the economy, protect the environment, and assure Californians a high quality of life, all of which are objectives of the California Water Plan.

The area that is under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. The Inland Empire, comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties is one of the fastest growing regions nationally and the Victor Valley (High Desert portion of San Bernardino County), is now experiencing extremely high growth, which we anticipate will continue in the next 25 to 50 years. Where else can most people afford to buy homes? Where else can people afford to do business in Southern California? The answer to both is the Victor Valley.

I am sure that you recognize the key role that local entities play, but local funding alone will not be nearly enough for us to achieve our goals. State and federal investment in local water management projects and programs must be made to complement and support progress at the local and regional level and ensure that water is available to meet our changing needs.

I urge you to concur with staff's recommendation to fund all 16 applicants and evaluate the totality of the benefits of *all* the applicants, and please not be swayed by *one* or just a few vocal opponents.

Our region is counting on your vision and foresight. Please feel free to contact me directly at (760) 951-5111 x101 (office) or (760) 954-4567 (cell) or via e-mail: jbrady@thebradcocompanies.com. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter and I look forward to your favorable reply.

Very truly yours,

Joseph W. Brady / mjo

Joseph W. Brady, CCIM, SIOR
President
The Bradco Companies

cc: Mr. Michael Stevens
Community Liaison Officer
Mojave Water Agency
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